

1    CLAIMS:

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3    1.     A decking clamp for use in an underhung roof system comprising:

4           a substantially C-shaped housing having first and second opposed arms and a clamping  
5    cavity with a variable gap opening to said cavity;

6           a threaded retention nut having an outer diameter dimension secured within a two  
7    opening notch in a front section of said first opposed arm; and

8           a threaded fastener member extensible through said housing and said threaded retention  
9    nut, said fastener member rotatable through said nut to vary the width of said variable gap  
10   opening between said first and second opposed arms.

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12   2.     The clamp of claim 1 wherein said two opening notch further comprises a generally  
13   vertical partition wall between opposite sides of said notch, thereby forming opposed openings in  
14   said front section, said retention nut having outer edges extending through said opposed openings  
15   and retained therein rearward said partition wall when opposite side walls of said housing are  
16   spaced apart a distance less than said outer diameter dimension of said nut.

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18   3.     A method for making a decking clamp for use in an underhung roof system comprising  
19   the steps of:

20        (a)    providing a generally planar clamp template, said template further comprising:

21                   a transverse axis generally dividing said template into first and second  
22           sides and a longitudinal axis generally dividing said template into an upper section and a  
23           lower section;

1 a first retention nut opening in said first side of said template and a second  
2 retention nut opening in said second side of said template, said first and second nut  
3 openings spaced equidistance from said transverse axis, and in said upper section of said  
4 template;

5 a partition wall between said first and second nut openings; and  
6 a clamping cavity opening in a generally central section of said template,  
7 said clamping cavity opening having a shape symmetrical about said transverse axis of  
8 said template;

9 (b) providing a threaded retention nut and a threaded fastener member;

10 (c) initiation of folding said template along said transverse axis;

11 (d) inserting said retention nut in said first and second nut opening and along a rear  
12 side of said partition wall while folding said template;

13 (e) completing folding of said template into a C-shaped clamp until a side wall gap  
14 width of less than the diameter of said nut is achieved, said nut being securely retained in  
15 said nut openings and rearward of said partition wall; and

16 (f) passing said threaded fastener member through a channel in an upper section of  
17 said folded C-shaped clamp and threading said fastener member through said nut until the  
18 head of said fastener member forms a gap opening in said cavity in said folded C-shaped  
19 clamp, said gap opening having a variable width corresponding to the distance of  
20 threaded movement of said fastener member through said nut.